

Appl. No. 10/685,980
Amdt. Dated July 21, 2004
Reply to Office action of June 28, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A wedge tool in combination with ~~for operating~~ a slide fastener of the type having a biasing member for holding the slide fastener in a fixed position in relation to fastener teeth, said wedge tool comprising:

- a first elongated arm having a first end and a second end;
- a second elongated arm having a first end and second end;
- said first arm and said second arm connected at said first arm first end and said second arm first end;
- said first arm and said second arm separated at said first arm second end and said second arm second end;
- an elongated wedge tip located on said first arm proximate said second end of said first arm; and
- said wedge tip extending in the direction of said second arm.

Claim 2 (original) A wedge tool as in claim 1, further comprising:

- said first arm and said second arm flexible to allow said wedge tip to abut said second arm upon application of a closing force.

Claim 3 (original) A wedge tool as in claim 1, further comprising:

- said wedge tip having a wedge point distal said first arm;
- said wedge tip at least partially tapered from said first arm to said wedge point whereby said wedge tip is larger proximate said first arm and smaller proximate said wedge point.

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Claim 4 (original) A wedge tool as in claim 1, further comprising:

- said second arm having a cavity proximate said second end of said second arm;
- said cavity capable of receiving said wedge tip.

Claim 5 (original) A wedge tool as in claim 1, further comprising:

- a second elongated wedge tip located on said second arm proximate said second end of said second arm opposite said wedge tip of said first arm;
- said second wedge tip extending in the direction of said first arm.

Claim 6 (original) A wedge tool as in claim 1, further comprising:

- an elongated wedge tip receiver located on said second arm proximate said second end of said second arm opposing said wedge tip of said first arm;
- said wedge tip receiver extending in the direction of said wedge tip;
- said wedge tip receiver having an indentation constructed to receive said wedge tip.

Claim 7 (original) A wedge tool as in claim 1, further comprising:

- a handle provided at said first arm first end and said second arm first end.

Claim 8 (currently amended) A wedge tool in combination with ~~for operating a~~ slide fastener of the type having a slide with a biasing member for holding said slide in a fixed position along rows of teeth, said wedge tool comprising:

- an elongated first arm including a first free end and a first interior surface;
- an elongated second arm including a second free end and a second interior surface;
- said first interior surface facing said second interior surface;
- a handle attached to said first arm and said second arm distal said first free end and said second free end, respectively;
- a wedge tip extending from and normal to said first arm interior side distal said handle;

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said wedge tip including a wedge point distal said first arm interior side;
said first free end and said second free end moveable between an open position and a compressed position;
said wedge point and said second arm in said open position defining a gap therebetween;
and
said wedge point contacting said free end of said second arm in said compressed position.

Claim 9 (original) A wedge tool as in claim 8, further comprising:

said wedge tip at least partially tapered from said first arm to said wedge point;
said wedge tip being larger proximate said first arm and smaller proximate said wedge point.

Claim 10 (original) A wedge tool as in claim 8, further comprising:

said second arm having an indentation in said second arm interior side distal said handle;
and
said indentation receiving said wedge tip in said compressed position.

Claim 11 (original) A wedge tool as in claim 8, further comprising:

a second wedge tip extending from and normal to said second arm interior side distal said handle; and
said wedge tip contacting said second wedge tip in said compressed position.

Claim 12 (original) A wedge tool as in claim 8, further comprising:

a wedge tip receiver located on said second interior surface; and
said wedge tip received by said wedge tip receiver in said compressed position.

Claim 13 (original) A wedge tool as in claim 12, further comprising:

said wedge tip receiver extending from and normal to said second interior surface distal

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said handle.

Claim 14 (original) A method of closing a stuffed toy with a wedge tool, said stuffed toy including a closure comprising two rows of teeth, a sliding fastener having a leaf spring and a pull tab hole, and said leaf spring engagable with said two rows of teeth to prevent movement of said sliding fastener, said sliding fastener operable to interlock said two rows of teeth, said wedge tool comprising a first arm and a second arm attached to a handle at a common end, and a wedge tip extending toward said second arm from said first arm distal said common end, said method comprising the steps of:

inserting said wedge tip into said pull tab hole to disengage said leaf spring;

compressing said first arm and said second arm together until said wedge tip contacts said second arm;

pulling said compressed wedge tool in a direction to move said sliding fastener;

halting said pulling step when said two rows of teeth are interlocked;

releasing said first arm and said second arm until a space sufficient to remove said wedge tool from said pull tab hole is present; and

removing said wedge tool from said pull tab hole.